

Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of February 21, 2005

1. Council Meeting Broadcast: Broadcast of the Feb. 22 Council meeting on City TV was disrupted due to no sound transmission between the Chambers and the Control Room. A camera operator was dispatched to chambers to videotape the bulk of the meeting, but the quality of this footage is not up to normal standards; however most of the meeting was recorded, aired live and replayed during the week per usual. An engineer spent the day with staff on Thursday and identified two cables which had been cut by construction personnel. The line is repaired and all should be normal for the Feb. 28 meeting. (City TV)
2. East Hampshire Center Extension Request (Ward 3): By a vote of 3 to 1, the Montgomery County Planning Board denied the preliminary plan extension request submitted by Maisel-Hollins Development Company for the proposed self storage facility at the intersection of New Hampshire and Eastern Avenues. Mayor Porter, Councilmember Williams, and City Attorney Sue Silber testified for the City. Because of this decision, any development at this location would now have to comply with the requirements of the Commercial Revitalization Overlay Zone including the requirement for site plan review. (Housing and Community Development)
3. Gateway and Wayfinding Signage Advisory Committee (Citywide): The Signage Advisory Committee met on Wednesday evening to review alternative design options for the directional signage and to choose colors for the signs. The following organizations were represented at the meeting: Arts and Humanities Commission, Facade Advisory Board, Historic Takoma, Crossroads Development Authority, and Old Takoma Business Association. Their input will be forwarded to the Council at a later date. (Housing and Community Development)
4. Pedestrian Safety - Philadelphia Avenue (Ward 1): City Planning and Police staff met last Thursday with the Old Town Residents Association (OTRA) to present the measures that the City and the State Highway Administration are taking to address a set of pedestrian safety issues identified by the community at or near the intersection of Philadelphia Avenue with Cedar/Old Philadelphia, Holly Avenue, and Piney Branch Road. These included more enforcement of vehicular traffic at crosswalks and a series of engineering measures designed to create safer and more visible environments for pedestrians. Contact Associate Planner Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205 or ilonab@takomagov.org for more information. (Housing and Community Development)
5. Electrical Aggregation: The proposed legislation that would permit municipalities to negotiate the price of electricity for their residents, provided the resulting price was lower, died today in the Maryland Senate Finance Committee. This bill was a priority for the Maryland Municipal League and for the City of Takoma Park. Unfortunately, PEPCO worked very hard to kill this bill, and apparently was successful this year. However, the legislation is likely to be proposed again next year. Special thanks go to Takoma Park citizen Martin Gottschalk for his work on advising City staff and Councilmembers on the advantages of municipal electrical aggregation. (Community & Government Liaison)
6. TASDI Preliminary Report: The Residents' Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues (TASDI) will be presenting a preliminary report to the City Council on February 28. The Committee will be meeting on March 2, 16, and 30 to prepare their final report, to be presented to the Council on April 11. All of the TASDI meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held at 7 pm in the Columbia Room of Columbia Union College's Wilkinson Hall at Flower Avenue and Division Street. (Community & Government Liaison)
7. C-SAFE initiative (Ward 6): The Maryland International Corridor C-SAFE initiative was recognized Feb. 14 with a Governor's Citation for its role in crime prevention and public safety in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. (Ward 6) The program was recognized for its success in linking residents, businesses and other organizations with law enforcement, parole and probation to address the fear of crime and to reduce crime. Takoma Park Police have served as the lead agency since the program began as the first multi-jurisdictional HotSpot in January 2000. (Police)
8. House Bill 443: Chief Creamer joined Mayor Porter in Annapolis to testify in support of proposed legislation. HB 443 would allow speed cameras to be used in Montgomery County. The fines for uncontested citations would be paid to the government entity installing and monitoring the cameras. Similar legislation has failed in the past two sessions, once to allow such camera use statewide and once to allow use in Montgomery and Prince George's County. The bill was sponsored by the Montgomery County delegation. The second bill, HB 383, would establish a First Responders Fund to provide grants for equipment and personnel for first responders, including police. The Fund would receive monies from fees levied on individuals guilty of traffic violations that caused accidents. The Driver Responsibility and First Responders Fund Act was introduced by Del. Bronrott. A similar program in New Jersey raised about \$134 million in 2003. (Police)
9. Arrests Made (Wards 1, 4, 5, & 6): Among arrests this week were: one for attempt rape and assault in which the victim and suspect were acquaintances (Ward 6); one for driving under the influence on Piney Branch Road (Ward 1, 4 & 5); one for shoplifting (Ward 6); and a criminal citation to a city resident for drug possession. The latter resulted from an observation traffic stop at Elm and Poplar during which drugs were located. (Ward 3) (Police)
10. Speed Enforcement (All Wards): Speed enforcement details included Philadelphia Ave., Piney Branch Rd., and New Hampshire Avenue. Of 58 traffic stops, 49 resulted in citations. The COP Team was assisted by patrol in a yield-to-pedestrian detail at Philadelphia and Cedar on two days last week with 20 warnings or citations issued. (Police)
11. Crime Statistics: Overall index crimes decreased 11 percent compared to last year, reaching the lowest level in the past 10 years. The 2004 UCR crime figures for the City of Takoma Park show drops in every category of property and violent crimes. Three (rape, robbery and larceny) were lower than the range expected based on 10-year figures; three (vehicle theft, burglary and aggravated assault) were within the range. (Attached) (Police)

12. Crime Report (Ward 5): April 2, at 2 p.m., has been set tentatively for the dedication of Toatley-Fraser (formerly Eastridge) Park. (Ward 5) Contact is being established with families of the namesakes for that date and planning is underway for appropriate activities. (Police)

13. Officers in Training: Cpl. Cannatella attended supervisors training, which is mandated for officers promoted to this rank. Two officers attended Street Investigation of Vehicle Theft training in Hyattsville. (Police)

14. New President at WAH: Washington Adventist Hospital has announced the appointment of Jere D. Stocks to the position of President. Mr. Stocks was previously Chief Operating Officer at Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska. (Community & Government Liaison)

15. YES League Taping: City TV videotaped the YES League Basketball Tournament on Friday, Feb. 18th. This was the first time the PEG Network van was used for a sports production, and it was deemed successful. Staff will be editing this footage and replaying it in March. (City TV)

16. Farewell to Liz: City staffer Elizabeth Mosely has left the City for employment elsewhere. Patrick Rittenhouse will be assisting the Communications Office on a part-time interim basis. (City TV)

17. Public Forum Taping: City TV staff will be airing the upcoming Public Forum on Rail Transport of Hazardous Materials scheduled for March 9. A Press Release will go out in the next day or two. (City TV)

18. Newsletter Delivery: The March Newsletter will be delivered to residents starting tomorrow and will be posted to the City web site by Feb. 28. (City TV)

19. Afternoon Addition: The Afternoon Addition had its first ever Award Ceremony. recognizing participants with good and outstanding behavior. Those who received an outstanding will get 2 tickets to a Wizards basketball game. We also handed out superlative awards like "best sportsmanship" and "homework guru" to all the kids so each would be recognized for his/her talents. (Recreation)

20. Game Postponement: The YES League All-Star game was postponed due to the snow. The make-up date is Thursday, March 3, at TPMS. The junior varsity game is at 7 pm., and the varsity begins at 8:30pm. All are welcome! (Recreation)

2004 Crime Totals Released

UCR Part I Crime Comparion				
	2003	2004	%Change	Expected Range*
Homicide	2	0	-100	.27 - 1.93
Rape	9	2	-77.7	4.71 - 8.89
Robbery	67	58	-13.4	65.93 - 98.07
Aggr. Assault	30	28	-6.6	21.21 - 62.79
<i>Personal Crime</i>	<i>108</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>-18.5</i>	<i>105.42 - 158.38</i>
Burglary	156	133	-14.7	130.74 - 184.66
Larceny	447	410	-8.2	488.28 - 606.92
Auto Theft	176	156	-11.3	131.71 - 200.49
<i>Property Crime</i>	<i>779</i>	<i>699</i>	<i>-10.3</i>	<i>797.46 - 945.34</i>
Totals	887	787	-11.3	916.13 - 1090.47

* Based on 10-year figures from 1994 - 2003

City of Takoma Park 10-Year UCR Part I Crime Statistics										
<i>Crime</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>00</i>	<i>01</i>	<i>02</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>04</i>
Homicide	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	0
Rape	7	6	11	5	9	5	4	6	9	2
Robbery	99	103	89	73	50	97	70	92	67	58
Aggravated Assault	77	26	35	50	37	27	28	25	30	28
<i>Violent Crime Total</i>	<i>184</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>108</i>	<i>88</i>
Burglary	215	151	167	151	158	137	150	107	156	133
Larceny	606	573	550	609	477	494	562	639	447	410
Auto Theft	163	200	132	140	147	166	198	230	176	156
<i>Property Crime Total</i>	<i>984</i>	<i>924</i>	<i>849</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>782</i>	<i>797</i>	<i>910</i>	<i>976</i>	<i>779</i>	<i>699</i>
UCR Part One Total	<i>1168</i>	<i>1062</i>	<i>985</i>	<i>1029</i>	<i>879</i>	<i>927</i>	<i>1013</i>	<i>1099</i>	<i>887</i>	<i>787</i>